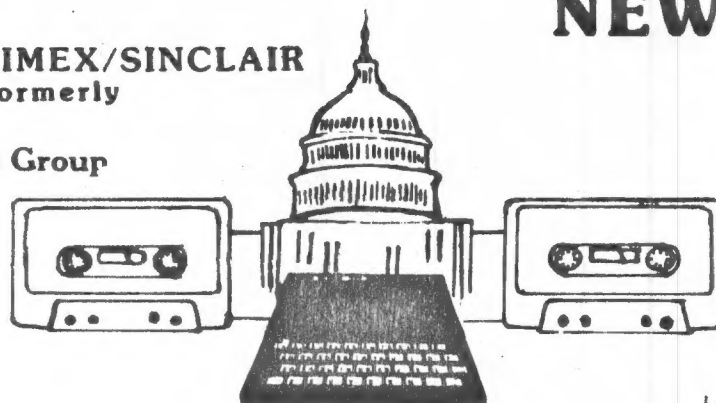


CATS

CAPITOL AREA TIMEX/SINCLAIR
USERS GROUP :Formerly

Prince George's
Timex/Sinclair User's Group



NEWSLETTER

Vol. 2, No. 1
April, 1984

* * * CONTENTS * * *

Recent Happenings	1	The D.A.'s Case	5	Rotating Globes	8
From the Editor	2	T/S 2000 Tips	6	Newsletter Exchange	9
The Next Machine?	3	Fastload Review	7	New References	9
Tape Loading	4	2K Data Base	7	Response to Bernie	10

Well, it is now a month since Timex pulled the plug. The Timex machines have been going for all kinds of prices. The TS2068 at a closeout price of \$99.95 has been seen for as low as \$75. The TS2020 tape recorder for \$25 and the printer has held up at \$75. When all the dust finally settles the prices will begin to come back up. A good example of this is the software. It has been reported that Timex software has sold for as little as 10 cents in quantity. The TS2068 cassettes for \$2. As of March 26 the 2068 cassettes are at 50 per cent off list if you can find any.

We have had word from a number of suppliers that we will see new 2068 titles in the next 30 days. In addition the prices on the peripherals have firmed up. The Timex modem will not be shipped by TIMEX and therefore there is only Byte-Back to count on for a modem for both the 1000 and 2068.

Later in this issue there is a piece on the MAGAZINES available now that SYNC has folded. Also see the bulletin on refunds from SYNC. TIMEX SINCLAIR USER which went out in December announced it would publish in April. It has folded as well. It claims because Timex gave up.

As was quoted in this column last month, there are a large group of third-party vendors still around and working overtime to get you what you need to keep your Timex computers up and running. A few items announced in the last month are: a CENTRONICS INTERFACE for the 2068 by Aerco; also a new ZX/PROFILE by Tom Woods for the 2068; a NEW MODEM 68 by Byte Back for both the 1000/1500 and 2068; WINKY BOARD 2 from G. Russell Electronics for use with the 2068 and DISC DRIVES from 21st Century for the 2068. Our own Mark Fisher had a little to do in a new book by Robert B.V. Masters titled VU-CALC and VU-FILE (the Organizer): Getting Serious With Your Timex/Sinclair. Great reading. Especially Appendix A and B by Mark. A-Customizing Your Copy of VU-CALC and B-VU-CALC on The

T/S 2068. Order your copy now. It will be a Hot Seller.

See the latest on QL from Sinclair in England. Also a letter from a computerist in ENGLAND.

BESME ASSOCIATES may announce a WORD PROCESSOR for use on the 2068 with both the TIMEX Printer and the 80 column printers.

Watch this column for further HOT-NEWS on new items and things. MEETING NOTICE. SUNDAY APRIL 15 at TRENTON STATE UNIVERSITY, TRENTON NEW JERSEY there will be a MONSTER COMPUTER FAIR and FLEA MARKET. Here is your chance to rummage through someone elses' surplus junk.

Sunday, March 25th in the pouring rain Sarah and Mark Fisher, Mike Cohen and yours truly attended the Annual Computer Ham Fest at Timonium Fair Grounds. Well you have to attend to believe it. In the pouring rain at least 50 cars, vans, trucks, carts, etc. sold things in the tailgate section of the parking lot- All manner of radio equipment, computer potpourri. You name it, they had it for sale. One trailer truck sold Color TV sets at a steal. In two fair buildings were row on row of tables of Radio and Computer things. However, now the computers are overpowering the radios. All kinds of new, used, old parts, sets, such as computers and printers and all kinds of accessories. In addition all kinds of radio rigs and and all manner of parts, tubes, wiring, speakers, microphones, clips, tacks, telephones, magazines, TV sets, Monitors. Speaking of monitors, yours truly bought a 9" Sanyo monitor for use with my 2068 for only \$30. Mark bought a compressor for \$20, a slide projector for \$2 and a Skill rotary saw for \$4. The best part was poring over the back issues of all the computer magazines and books especially SYNC and CREATIVE COMPUTING. If you have never attended one of these you are in for a big treat. Oh! By the way! They were selling TS1000s for \$59.95. Happy Computing
JULES BESAME

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

By dropping the 2068, Timex Kind of gone and left those of you who were planning to upgrade from your 1000s holding an empty bag. Oh, there are plenty of PCs with more memory, more peripherals, more etc., but they all have one common feature - they cost much, much more! All is not lost, however.

We announced the advent of the latest Sinclair, the QL, in the February Newsletter; since then, more information has come in. At the March meeting Paul Beverly, Memotech's local representative for their new machine, the MTX, gave a very attractive demonstration. And last, but hopefully not least, we have a review of the Adam by one of our members (Coleco is laying people off right and left; we hope this isn't a harbinger of worse to come; the Adam was a neat idea).

All the information in the first 2/3 of this article is compiled from secondary sources. The specs on the QL come from an article from Electronic Engineering Times (1/16/84), reprinted in SINCLAIR/TIMEX Southeast Regional Newsletter, and a reproduction of a QL advertising brochure from the same source. The information on the MTX was culled from a brochure handed out at the meeting. No-one we know of has seen a QL in operation yet, or the MTX either, so we can't offer any idea of how easy they are to use, although they sound wonderful. The report on the Adam is an actual user's report; although the Adam has acquired a very shaky reputation, our user liked it and cites some articles you can go to for actual details on the machine.

THE QL

Contrary to early reports, the QL will be available in the U.S., through mail order only (no addresses yet) marketing is projected for the third quarter of '84). The price will probably change, but first mention is only \$499. Before you say "Too much!", read this:

Weighing just over 3 pounds, the 5-3/8 X 1-3/4 X 19 inch machine is built around a 68008 CPU (32 bit) and comes with 128K of RAM as standard. The QL also has an Intel 8049 slave processor to handle the keyboard, the two built-in RS232 ports, and sound generation. The memory is expandable to 640K, ROM capacity is 32K, which can be expanded to 64 (through a ROM cartridge slot), and storage can be expanded to 800K through the addition of six microdrives (the machine comes with two, for a total of eight). The QL system also features a 65 Key full travel keyboard, joystick inputs, color video and sound outputs.

Aimed at the business as well as the home market, the machine will be bundled with four programs: Quill, a wordprocessor; Abacus, a spreadsheet; Archive, a database, and Easel, a graphics package. Each program will be on a microdrive cassette (it will be impossible to use audio cassettes with the QL) and each program can share data with all the others. There is a much expanded Basic called SuperBasic also included - a highly structured version capable of procedure oriented statements and Pascal-like structures. The operating system - QDOS - has a multi-tasking feature and can window over 20 (also reported as 10) programs, operating simultaneously. The operating system also supports a 256- user local area network.

This is as much as I can digest already, but it seems there may be more in the works. Peripherals under development include: a .5 megabyte expansion board, a Pascal compiler, a 68000 assembler, a Winchester interface, a modem, and a parallel printer interface.

The MTX

At the March meeting Paul Beverly showed us a very high-tech, streamlined charcoal box containing Memotech's first venture into making their own. The MTX is powered by a Z80A CPU, with 24K ROM and an initial 64K of RAM. Memory may be expanded internally, with RAM boards up to 512K. The ROM, which already contains MTX BASIC, can also be expanded, either through the disc drive bus or cartridge port, up to 72K. Some of the expansions are: MTX Pascal or Forth and software.

The display can be either a color TV or a monitor, with a 40 X 24 standard screen (an 80 column expansion board is optional).

The keyboard is full-sized QWERTY (producing upper and lower case) with a separate numeric keypad including cursor controls and eight programmable function keys. Standard I/O includes a parallel printer port, cassette port, cartridge port, two joystick ports and four channel sound. Optional is a communications board with two RS232 interfaces and a disc drive bus.

The MTX was designed to be used in business, scientific fields, education, and for the home or recreation. The disc operating system gives access to the wide range of CP/M business software. In the classroom the MTX can be used for CAI through a node/ring communications system; in the lab, the extensive I/O facilities should make it useful as a controller/monitor.

A base-price MTX lists at \$595; the price begins to go up as you expand: the machine with factory installed communications board (two RS232 interfaces and disc drive bus) is \$695. Still, this is less than half the price of some other

machines we can think of. Paul Beverly can be reached at (703)360-2372

The Adam Ralph Mason (703)534-8667

There have been many reviews, published in many different sources, on the Adam computer. Many reviews contain false information and some were even written without having used an actual Adam computer. The best factual account, to date, on the Adam was printed in the Feb., 1984 issue of Computers & Electronics.

Documentation: The original BASIC documentation should be rated as "Terrible" - where the TS/1000 would be rated as good to excellent. Coleco has new BASIC documentation with the current package and a quick peruse, at a store, indicates that some of the major flaws have been corrected. However, my promised copy from Coleco has not arrived yet. The documentation on the "built in" (ROM) word processor is almost not needed, since Smartwriter is very, very friendly.

Benchmark: The Feb., 1984 issue of Creative Computing contained a benchmark program with results from 115 different computers (Adam was missing). The Adam, on this test, took 49 sec. and the TS/1000 (FAST) took 2 min. and 43 sec. The results for accuracy and randomness were about the same. Matter of fact, the TS/1000 did quite well overall in this simple benchmark.

BASIC: The BASIC is generally compatible with AppleSoft BASIC. It is not in ROM and requires the user to load it in from the built in digital data drive. This feature I do not like, since at the present time, there appears to be no way of making a back up tape. Its capability is restricted by the lack of good documentation.

Word Processing: Smartwriter is built into ROM and is available with a push of one key and has most of the features any common person would want. (Ed.note: the original of this article was printed very handsomely on the Adam daisy-wheel printer)

Keyboard: Oh, it is wonderful compared with the TS/1000!

Games: Excellent games can be gotten for both the digital data drive and the standard Coleco game cartridge slot.

Supplies: It took six weeks to get additional data packs and printer ribbons from Coleco. The daisy wheels can be gotten from almost any office supply store.

Comments: The Adam has the potential of becoming a

very fine expandable system if Coleco does not follow the same pattern as Timex and Texas Instruments.

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ATTENTION ALL SYNC SUBSCRIBERS Now that Sync has announced that they will no longer publish, many members have called asking about the unused portion of their prepaid subscription. As of March 25 we have been notified that all subscribers with unfulfilled subscriptions will be given the opportunity of choosing from a list of publications that Sync will send them to complete the fulfillment of their subscription. If there is no publication to their liking they will be given a cash refund. In any case, the offer may not come for at least 60 days. That will put the offer to arrive about May 1, 1984. If you have questions regarding your unfulfilled subscription please call SYNC MAGAZINE at 1-800-526-0666 and ask for Customer Service. JULES GESANG

))
**TAPE LOADING -
FIRST, LAST,
AND ALWAYS**

By now we are all familiar with the T/S family of computers- those poor little orphans - and what excellent computers they are for the price. However, one of the design compromises made to keep the price low has resulted in a major shortcoming which seems as if it will never go away or even get better. I'm referring to the delicate nature of the tape loading process. The cassette player (T/S 2020) marketed by Timex in an attempt to standardize the process did not solve the problem either. Tape hiss, dropouts and other forms of noise from low-cost tape can still cause problems. High quality tape may not eliminate the problem either, since distortion produced by misaligned tape heads can also frustrate your efforts. In addition, there are a number of careless errors which are SO easy to commit while putting your set-up together.

What follows is a checklist to maybe help you over the humps. In our experience 90% of tape loading problems are caused by an assortment of these situations. Bear with us if they sound condescending, but every one of them has happened to us, and still do on occasion.

1.CONNECTORS: Follow the instructions in the owners' manual exactly. Be sure that "ear" port is connected to "ear" port, but don't connect the "mic" ports at this time, since they are only used to save. Note what the RAM requirements of the program you want to load are - do you need more? Make sure that the RAM pack is properly connected. DO NOT disconnect the RAM pack while the computer is on or they will both be damaged.

2.CONTROLS: Set the volume control on your cassette player all the way up. If you have a treble control, set that all the way up, too. Now LOAD your program and watch the monitor screen. If it's solid black with only fugitive white lines, then the volume's too loud. Back it off a few notches until you get a pattern of solid black bars. Volume set too low will show only the thin, squiggly bars the computer produces as it searches for the program. Watching a few successful loads will give you an idea of what a healthy pattern looks like.

3.CASSETTE: Avoid the temptation of cheap tape! Before you use a cassette to record anything, pull a loop of the tape out with the point of a pencil. See those streaks and holes in the medium? Unh-hunh! That's why you get dropouts. Don't use that cassette to tape a program, unless you're into mean practical jokes. Always make sure the cassette is completely rewound before you try to load and don't start rewinding a tape unless you've hit "stop" first - tape stretches.

4.TAPE PLAYER: Disconnect the cords and listen to the program. If your tape sounds muffled, there's your problem. Muffled sounding tapes mean your tape head is out of alignment and can't catch the high frequencies which are essential for a successful load. Either take the player to be realigned professionally or if you're the adventurous type do it yourself (NOTE: this can permanently impair your player's ability to read other tapes). Somewhere on the top front of your player is a small hole which gives access to the head adjusting screw. Insert a fine screwdriver and rotate the screw until the program is piercingly shrill. This sounds correct to the computer, no matter how unbearable it is to you or the family pet.

5.HARDWARE HELPERS: There are several interfaces made which can filter and shape the sound waves traveling between your tape player and the computer. Some people have found these to be helpful, but they really only mask the actual problem - which is still head misalignment.

sf

WILDLY SELF-SERVING AD DEPT.

Brady Publishing has just come out with a new Timex book. B. Dalton won't touch it - it's for an obsolete computer, right? The title is Vu-Calc and Vu-File: Getting Serious with your Timex/Sinclair. It's a very good introduction to two of the most powerful programs Timex offered. (I've got two chapters in.) Details on a club purchase at the next meeting.



THE D.A.'S CASE

by

BERNIE GERBER

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Hats off (and boxing gloves on) to Ward Seguin of Rockville, MD. Before the bell sounds for Round 1, let me say that a copy of DO-CALC has been sent as promised.

Now for the Devil's Advocate. The D.A. notes that in his letter Ward doesn't distinguish between Personal Computers (PCs) and home computers. The D.A. does. The D.A. classifies home computers as the very low cost end of the PC class. This includes the Timex 1000 & 2068, the VIC 20, Commodore 64, Atari 400 & 800, etc. The upper end of the PC class includes the IBM, Apple IIe, Franklin, Kaypro, etc., etc. The low end costs \$40 - \$200 to start; the upper end, \$1000 or more. The low end can be upgraded but at substantial cost. My challenge in the last issue of CATS Newsletter dealt with home computers.

Ward notes in his letter that PCs are limited by the need for manual data input. The D.A. notes that even the mainframes are so limited, unless the data are generated as computer input by some automatic or semi-automatic device. Examples of the first are analog sensors with associated A to D converters. Examples of the semi-automatic type are bar-code readers. Ward has a neat idea however. He proposes a magnetic strip on a card, upon which his purchase transactions would be recorded for later input to his computer. Carry it one step further and put the strip on the register receipt. Combine this with modem communication with the mainframes of banks, large stores or utility companies and you might have a workable system. However, it doesn't now exist. The D.A. thinks it's neat but "pie in the sky". He's a "now" person. The degree of standardization required appears nearly impossible. Don't hold your breath! The D.A. thinks standardization is a long way off and too expensive for Ma & Pa operations.

The D.A. thinks we should first come up with cheap & fast I/O devices. Disc drive is too expensive; microdrive looks good but Timex retreated (the Adam has it but is also in rough waters). EPROM cartridges are a one-way street.

Ward proposes that a major use of home computers

Continued on page 10

T/S 2000 TIPS

There have been a number of tips for the 2000 that have shown up at newsletter meetings, and in outside newsletters. The authors or sources of the tips are given credit, where it is known.

Tip 1: The Missing Legends

If you look at the space above the number keys, you may notice that there is no legend above the '8' and '9'. These spaces do have a function, however - they turn the FLASH on and off as you type. Just get the 'E' cursor, then press a CAPSSHIFTED '9'. You will have inserted a SETFLASH character. Each character printed on the screen following this will flash. When you get tired of this, get the 'E' cursor again, and press the ENDFLASH character. If you want to set the BRIGHT ON flag, get the 'E' cursor, and press the unshifted '9'. To set BRIGHT OFF, get the 'E' again, and press the unshifted '8'.
Gyuri Grell, CATS

Tip 2: Typing in Colors

There lie those color legends, but the only way to change color in the middle is to add a line such as 'INK 3', right? Gyuri says no. Get the 'E' cursor again, and press the CAPSSHIFTED color you want for INK. This will insert a CHANGEINK character in the text. To change the paper, get the 'E' cursor, and press the paper color you want - poof! GREEN paper! (By the way, each change of color or brightness takes two extra bytes.MF)
Gyuri Grell, CATS

Tip 3: Deleting line numbers.

The 2068 has a block DELETE function, that can be pretty useful at times. Most of the time, however, it's a nuisance. If you try to DELETE the line number, a DELETE token is inserted instead. Normally, holding the key down will allow you to DELETE the DELETE token, as well as the number (or colon) in front of it. If the line is too long, however, the update of the line will take so long that the 2068 forgets that it's supposed to delete the line number, and it inserts another DELETE! You can get around this by moving the cursor in front of the line number, and adding a keyword; then moving the cursor around behind the line number again, and DELETING the number. The computer now thinks that the number isn't a line number, and DELETES it easily.
Ned Beeler, CATS

Tip 4: Double SCROLL

If you are looking at a listing, and the word Scroll? appears, pressing CAPSSHIFTED '3' or '4' lets two screens of data move by before it stops. This can be useful when scanning a listing.

David Horshor, ATSU, Ohio

NOTICE:

Applications Meeting

On the third Saturday of April - 4/21/84 - all those interestd in the practical use of commercial programs will meet at the home of JOHN CONGER - Phone: 654 5751 - 4814 Grantham Ave., Somerset, Chevy Chase, MD. (between Wisc. and River Road S. of Dorset). Time: 2 to 5. Will set future meetings and agendas. Suggested topics: Word Processing; Spreadsheets; Data File Management; Fastload; Accounting; Critical Path Analysis; Etc. All are welcome.

WAR in the EAST

INVASION OF RUSSIA,
JULY, 1941

16K, 32K, or TS2068

You command the German Invasion of Russia to take Moscow.

T/S 2068 Game has:

- Large map of Eastern Europe and U.S.S.R.
- Divisional and Brigade Strength—Panzer, Infantry, Calvary, etc.
- Supply Lines • Zone of Control
- Effects of terrain and weather
- Actual Reinforcements
- No fast reflexes required.

32K—IDENTICAL TO TS/2068, EXCEPT:

- Large 4 screen map board • No effects of terrain

16K—IDENTICAL TO 32K GAME, EXCEPT:

- 1 screen map board

T/S 2068 — \$17.95
32K — 17.95 + \$2.00 S & H
16K — 14.95

VISA & Mastercard Accepted

Dealer Inquiries welcome

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SHARP'S

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SANDSTON, VA 23150
(804) 737-4895

FASTLOAD REVIEW

Well, the T/S 1000 gets closer and closer to a practical, everyday tool. For those that need spreadsheets, Vu-Calc has been around for a while. For those that need Data bases, TFO, Vu-File, and Pro-File are available. For those that have needed word processors, it was a long wait, but Hargraves' Word Sinc II delivers the goods, and WSII.4 will put those goods onto an 80 column printer.

Each of these programs has a major problem still: a full 16K takes ~7 minutes to load; and if you have a 48K file, it can take a staggering 18 minutes! Fastload, by Dr. G. Pearson, is the answer. (One of the answers, actually; ZX-L-R-8, G-Save, and others offer the same action.) It is an impressive utility. Unlike other fastload systems I have tried, it needs no hardware to filter the signal. It offers 80% of the ease of use of a disk, and makes referring to computer files as easy as referring to a paper file. A case in point. I was about to leave for class - in fact, I was in my car, when I realized I was missing a report for class. I returned to the house, fired up the computer, loaded WSII with Fastload, then my report's text file; then printed a copy for my professor. Total time: five minutes.

The figures: Fastload will load programs four or six times as fast as normal, depending on your tape recorder. Beyond this, Fastload will SAVE or LOAD numeric or string arrays alone - this means that SAVE and LOAD times are even further chopped. If the array stored on tape is shorter than the one in the computer, the tail end of the one in the computer is ignored; if the one on the tape is longer, it fills what room it has: no crashes! Fastload also offers a Catalog function. Fastload is supplied in three versions on one tape; a 16K version above ramtop, a 64K version at 8192, and an autoboot version that allows you to Fastload any program you have. (Unfortunately, it is not possible to use the autoboot to Fastload Fastload. Dr. Pearson arranged things so that his program can't be used twice - BREAK the program, and POKE 40A8h, 0 to defeat this in the 16K version.) It is possible to write a short BASIC program and list all the Fastload programs on a tape. The program:

```
1~DIM T$(24)
2 LET T$="C"
3 PRINT USR 32685;" ";T$( TO
2);" ";T$(3 TO )
4 GOTO 2
```

I modified my copy of WSII.4 to use Fastload to SAVE and LOAD text files. I include the SAVE portion of the listing to give you some idea of how to graft a Fastload type utility to an existing program. I've got 64K, but the only

difference is the USR call in line 9100.

Fastload gets all of its commands from T\$, which must be DIMensioned to 24. The end result, by line 9080, is that T\$="\$Axxx", where xxx is the user's assigned file name. If the "S" option is selected, the "\$" is inverse - this tells Fastload to SAVE.

```
9002 POKE 16418,2
9005 PRINT "ENTER TEXT FILE NAME
"
9010 INPUT C$
9020 PRINT ",,C$;TAB NOT M,,
9030 DIM T$(VAL "24")
9040 PRINT " SAVE OR LOAD ? PRES
S S OR L WHENREORDER IS READY."
9050 GOSUB I+T
9060 IF I$<>"S" AND I$<>"L" THEN
GOTO M
9070 DIM T$(24)
9080 LET T$=("&A" AND I$="S")+("&
$A" AND I$="L")+C$
9100 RAND USR VAL "8192"
9110 GOTO M
```

MF

A 2K DATA BASE FOR CRAZIES...

A 2K DATA BASE? ..."INSANE," THAT'S WHAT FRIENDS SAID AS I BEGAN THIS PROJECT. BUT WHEN IT WAS FINISHED, THEY WANTED A COPY. THIS LITTLE FILE HAS MANY USES AS A SCRATCH PAD OR LIST-MAKER. SCREEN PROMPTS HELP YOU ALONG. SOME OTHER HINTS:

1. BEGIN WITH DIRECT COMMAND: LET A\$="FILENAME".
2. DIRECT COMMAND: GOTO 90.
3. LINE 42 PRINTS A MARKER TO POINT OUT YOUR STRING LENGTH LIMIT DURING INPUT.
4. USE IN FAST MODE. A 7 SECOND WAIT OCCURS DURING SEARCH.
5. MAYBE MY FRIENDS WERE RIGHT.

PHIL DOUGHTY
VIDIOM
P.O. BOX 3118
PROVIDENCE, RI 02906


```

700 RESTORE 710: FOR n=64000 TO
64011: READ q: POKE n,q: NEXT n
RANDOMIZE USR 64000
710 DATA 33,0,64,17,zz-INT (zz/
256)*256,INT (zz/256),1,0,24,237
176,201
720 RETURN
800 CLEAR 31999
803 LET zz=32000
805 FOR f=0 TO 33 STEP 11
810 RESTORE 820: FOR n=64000+f
TO 64010+f: READ q: POKE n,q: NE
XT n
820 DATA 33,zz-INT (zz/256)*256
,INT (zz/256),17,0,64,1,0,24,237
176
830 LET zz=zz+7000
840 NEXT f
850 POKE 64044,201
900 IF INKEY$="" THEN RANDOMIZE
USR 64000
910 IF INKEY$("<")="" THEN GO TO 91
0
920 GO TO 900
930 SAVE "g1btrn"
950 SAVE "g1bfrm"CODE 32000,280
00

```

Timex to eliminate home computer line

MIDDLEBURY, Conn. — Timex Corp. is officially abandoning its floundering line of inexpensive home computers, saying it cannot make a "reasonable profit" from them.

Timex issued a brief announcement on Tuesday saying it would continue honoring warranties and performing repairs on its Timex Sinclair computers and would use its manufacturing capacity to meet demand for parts from other computer companies.

The Timex line was produced as a result of a deal in early 1982 with British inventor Clive Sinclair, whose first home computer was highly successful in Britain.

The first Timex Sinclair model also initially sold well in the United States, largely because of its low price of \$99.95. But as demand for home computers soared in 1982-83, users began demanding more performance and features than the Timex Sinclair could deliver.

WE'RE ON OUR OWN NOW!

T/S has got a lot of users behind it, even if it doesn't have a factory. The following two articles will give you some idea of the resources that are currently seen by club members. Steve's list shows most of the newsletters that we are currently exchanging with. Those and others will be available to look through at the next meeting.

For more extensive support, you'll have to go farther afield; and Jules' piece covers that end of the Spectrum.

NEWSLETTER EXCHANGE REPORT 4/84

BOSTON COMPUTER SOCIETY T/S UG
Three Center Plaza
Boston, Ma 02108

SINCUS NEWS
P.O.Box 36
Johnson City, NY 13790

TIMELINE-Z (SOUTH BAY T/S UG)
P.O.Box 1312
Pacific, Ca 94044

TRIANGLE SINCLAIR UG
206 James St.
Carrboro, NC 27510

TS USER
P.O.Box 155
Vicksburg, Mi 49097

ZX FORUM (SOUTH FL ZX/TS UG)
P.O.Box 057381
West Palm Beach, FL 33405

ZX WORLD NEWS BULLETIN, ZX UG NY
Box 560, Wall St.
New York, NY 10005

— Steve Johnson, NLX Committee

READINGS

Now that SYNC Magazine has gone down the tubes following Timex Sinclair User, everyone is looking for a good publication to help keep up with the World of Sinclair.

There are quite a number of GOOD publications crammed with Sinclair Info. Following are a few from ENGLAND together with their approximate subscription cost per year. These also are available on the newsstand monthly. Crown Book carries most of them.

ZX COMPUTING—crammed with Sinclair. \$35 per year, six issues by AIR MAIL

YOUR COMPUTER—about half Sinclair. Great articles. \$25 per year by AIR MAIL.

PERSONAL COMPUTER WORLD is one of the largest. \$29 per year by AIR MAIL.

MICRO COMPUTER PRINTOUT—not the best for Sinclair but one of the better General purpose Magazines. \$40 per year by AIR MAIL.

PRACTICAL COMPUTING gives equal time to Sinclair at \$26 per year by AIR MAIL

COMPUTER CHOICE—good source of computer info. \$15 per year by AIR MAIL.

And on the Home front, there are a few domestic magazines.

CREATIVE COMPUTING is the old partner of SYNC. However, there should be more Sinclair articles than before. \$19.97 per year.

COMPUTERS AND ELECTRONICS is always a good place to find Timex/Sinclair material. At only \$12.97 a year.

FAMILY COMPUTING is a new one on the Computer Scene. From Scholastic Publishers, has given some support to Timex since it's first issue last August. At \$17.97 per year a good buy.

LINK-UP is a magazine dedicated to Telecommunications. Great for those into Modems. \$24 per year.

is for "budgeteering". He recognizes that this takes, in his words, "discipline". There's the rub! Will you enter data daily? weekly? or as frequently as required? The computer won't discipline you. I had fun budgeteering for a month and then gave up - it's too much like work. If you're inclined to budgeteering, a notebook, pencil, calculator and one of many books offering guidance will work well and maybe even faster.

Ward then contends that programs for tax return, estate planning, investment analysis, mortgage analysis, etc., are useful. I agree, but most are infrequent or one-shot affairs. The only one of that list that might be repetitively useful is investment analysis. Is it worthwhile getting software you might use only once or twice a year?

Ward concludes with the information that his sons are learning to program on his home computer and his daughter uses the 2068 to hear new piano melodies. A piano it's not; novel it is. I suggest, Ward, that you make her practice piano instead and if she has composing talent, then buy her a Moog synthesizer.

In summary, I've accepted only two elements for the here and now from Ward's letter - the investment analysis and the programming education. The D.A. remains adamant. If you disagree - write to me! Fight me! A DO-CALC for the best letter for next month's issue.

Bernie Gerber
3707 Downey Dale Dr.
Randallstown, MD 21133

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A Response to Bernie

In re: Bernie's problem of what to do with a "Home" computer - res ipsa loquitur. Don't limit its use by calling it a "Home" computer. IBM did not get big and rich for nothing and they call theirs a PC. But what can be more Personal than our 12 oz. machine? What the computer has done is make possible the conduct of business in the home - the creation of many cottage industries for persons who formerly spent long days and weeks in high rent offices and unproductive hours in boring commuting. At age 69 and into real estate, I do my work at home and meet associates, clients and others as required by appointment at their place or mine. What is remarkable to me is that the TS 1000 and 2068 are adequate to these business needs.

Bernie says he likes to spend time at the beach sailing and watching bikinis. Bernie should know I take a back seat to no one in my admiration of the fair sex, in or out of a bikini, and I too sail (and fly and ride a motorcycle) but I find time for my T\S 1000 as well as my new T\S 2068. But along with about five other things, I think using the computer is about as much fun as one can have with his clothes on. What can a T\S PC do at home? Well, I keep a stock and bond portfolio on VU-CALC and update it several times a month, using its over 300 calculations to do in 40 seconds what I never in the world would try to do manually. It's a great financial tool, and, with my Gemini 10X full size printer, I make hard copies for my tax records. My pride and joy, however, is my MEMOTEXT word processing program, which also includes a data file program for names, addresses, phone numbers and personal data (birthdays etc.) which I can use to address envelopes and letters or print out lists of customers, friends, etc. Dozens of form letters to customers, subcontractors or Xmas letters to family and friends can be printed on fan fold paper with one mash of the P key, thanks to the Mail Merge feature. And yes, I do word processing with the membrane keyboard as fast as I can work on my IBM typewriter, which I now consider obsolete. I keep the T\S 1000 and MEMOTEXT on all day for letters or just phone numbers. Because of the data file and Mail Merge feature, I use it in preference to the Organizer, TFO, or ZX PROFILE, all of which programs I have. The 2068 is used to do my serious skull work with VU-CALC on investment portfolio analysis and the design of construction models that approach Expert Systems in complexity. I am now trying out a new program called Critical Path Analysis, a.k.a. PERT/CPM - a planning tool to schedule work on building projects. It looks very promising. I am also looking for a good general accounting program for the 2068. If I can't find one, I'll try to design and program one myself. That should keep me busy for a while! If Bernie finds no problems at home for the use of his computer, please drop by my place sometime. I'll even offer him a beer while we see what's going on in the stock market on the Modem I have just ordered. Come on Bernie! Use your imagination and live a little in the high tech lane.

Capitol Area Timex/Sinclair Users' Group
P.O.Box 725
Bladensburg, MD 20710

Name _____

Address _____

ZIP _____

Phone Home _____ Office _____

memberships - \$12.00 (family/individual); make checks payable to C.A.T.S.

If family membership, please list family members participating:

Occupation _____

Ham Radio call sign _____

Equipment

ZX 80 _____ RAM size _____

MA 80 _____ full keyboard _____

ZX 81 _____ Printer _____

TS 1000 _____ type _____

TS 2000 _____ other interface _____

Special interest use for computer: ie, games, ham radio interface,
business, other, etc. _____

Languages: Basic _____ Other _____

Machine _____

No. of years computer experience _____

What committees would you like to serve on? _____

Comments: _____

Do not write below:

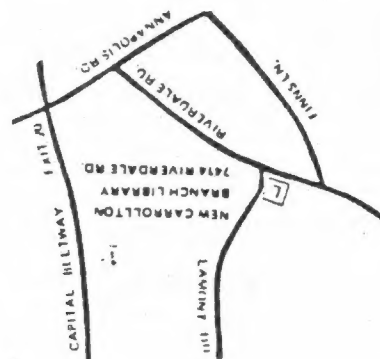
Dt. Pd. _____ Amt. _____ Membership No. _____

Ca. _____ Ck. _____

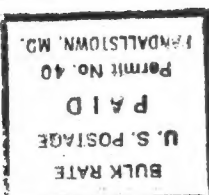
DATED MATERIAL

IF YOU ARE NOT A MEMBER OF CATS, THIS IS THE ONLY ISSUE YOU WILL RECEIVE
Dues = \$10.00 per year, per family.

Next CATS Meeting → 2PM ←+++++
Saturday, April 14, 1984 (got your taxes done?)
New Carrollton Public Library
7414 Riverdale Road, New Carrollton, MD



CATS Newsletter
P.O. Box 725
Bladensburg MD 20710



The mailing address of the Capitol Area Timex/Sinclair User's Group is:

Capitol Area Timex/Sinclair User's group
P.O. Box 725
Bladensburg, MD 20710

CATS is a non-profit special interest organization dedicated to serving the interests of those who own, use, or are interested in learning more about the Timex/Sinclair family of personal computers.

The official contact person for CATS is Jim Wallace: (301) 699-8712 (anytime).

Meetings are held on the second Saturday of each month at 2 P.M. in the large meeting room of the New Carrollton Branch Public Library.

Ham Radio Network Information

QZX Net...Wednesdays, 9p.m. local time; 14.345 MHz NV4F NCS
Eastern Regional Sinclair Net...Sundays, 1600 Z; 7.245 MHz KQ2F
NCS